

MANIFESTO

The Executive Committee of the Council of the Dominion Alliance for the Total Suppression of the Liquor Traffic, desires to set before the people of Canada the present prohibition situation, and to urge the paramountcy of this issue.

We are grateful for the legislation enacted restricting the liquor traffic, and appreciate the good results that have followed. This legislation, however, is inadequate. We seek not simply an amelioration of conditions, but a solution of the very real problem with which this nation is faced.

As set out in the "Declaration of Principles" of our organization, we submit:—

"That the history and results of all past legislation in regard to the liquor traffic abundantly prove that it is impossible satisfactorily to limit or regulate a system so essentially mischievous in its tendencies.

"That the total prohibition of the liquor traffic is in perfect harmony with the principles of justice and liberty, is not restrictive of legitimate commerce, and is essential to the integrity and stability of government and the welfare of the community."

PARLIAMENTARY DECLARATIONS

That The Alliance is not alone in this opinion is evidenced by the declarations of many important bodies, including the Dominion House of Commons, which, by an overwhelming majority, adopted the following which is applicable to-day:—

"That the traffic in alcoholic liquors as beverages is productive of serious injury to the moral, social, and industrial welfare of the people of Canada.

"That despite all preceding legislation, the evils of intemperance remain so vast in magnitude, so wide in extent, and so destructive in effect, as to constitute a social peril and a national menace.

"That this House is of the opinion that the right and most effectual legislative remedy for these evils is to be found in the enactment and enforcement of a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes."

Similar resolutions have been adopted at various sessions⁹ of Parliament, but not until the exigencies of the war compelled action, was legislative effect given to these declarations.

WAR-TIME PROHIBITION

In 1917 the Union Government, by Order-in-Council under the "War Measures Act," prohibited the importation into Canada, manufacture within Canada, and transportation into "dry" areas

of Canada, of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes, and prefaced its enactment by saying that it was "in order to prevent waste, to promote thrift, to conserve resources, and thus to increase national efficiency."

The order was to be effective during the war and for twelve months after the declaration of peace. But in December, 1919, twenty months before the war officially ended, this prohibition, which was giving splendid results, was repealed by Order-in-Council.

At this critical time of reconstruction with its far-reaching problems, accentuated by the prevailing unrest, and with the war now to pay for, economy, thrift, and efficiency are still imperatively needed.

NATION-WIDE LEGISLATION NEEDED

We submit that a national evil requires a nation-wide remedy. Experience has conclusively shown that municipal prohibition could not be made safe or fully effective while liquor was legally sold in other parts of the same province, and it was necessary to round out local option by provincial prohibition. It is now being clearly seen that provincial forms of prohibition cannot be made safe or fully effective in any province in Canada while intoxicating liquor is legally trafficked in, or manufactured within, or imported into other provinces of Canada, and we must round out our provincial prohibition by a nation-wide law.

In our opinion there would be less danger of inter-provincial ill-will and friction from the operation of a prohibitory law applying uniformly to all Provinces than through the existing condition by which laws approved by great majorities in seven of the nine provinces, and favored by substantial minorities in the other two provinces, are being vitiated and their good effects to some extent nullified through the legal systems which obtain in British Columbia and Quebec. **National solidarity and interprovincial comity would be aided by the enactment of a nation-wide law that would comprehensively, effectively, and thoroughly deal with this whole question.** The present sectional system is divisive and disturbing.

Prohibition sentiment in Canada is not ephemeral. It is the result of years of education strengthened by experience, and has come from an enlarging application to national affairs of the fundamental principles of honor, integrity, and altruism, reinforced by appropriate legislation. Canada thus earned a world reputation for sobriety, morality, and progressiveness. She is now taking her place as a nation among nations. We deprecate the surrendering to any other people, of our pre-eminence and leadership in legislative action against a great national evil.

MANUFACTURE—IMPORTATION—EXPORTATION

We are convinced that prohibitory legislation to be fully effective must go to the very root of the matter and deal with the manufacture of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes. Canada is primarily a food-producing country; intoxicating liquor can be made only by food destruction. The product of Canadian soil should not be misused by conversion into a baleful liquid poison, thus defeating the beneficent purpose of the Creator and Giver of every good.

Nor are we safe while importation is allowed into any part of Canada. Every argument which applies to the manufacture within Canada, applies to bringing of intoxicants in from other lands. Moreover, manufacture anywhere requires food stuffs.

Exportation must also be dealt with. It is grossly inconsistent for Canadians to ship to other lands that which we prohibit as hurtful to our own citizens. No principle of world ethics can justify the sending of a part of our surplus food products abroad to curse and blight humanity when it might bless and help.

INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS

It is humiliating to honor-loving Canadians that our international boundary line, on which no fortification has been erected, nor hostile gun fired for over a century, should now be the scene of guerilla warfare, and patrolled by armed guards found necessary by a friendly neighbor country to protect itself from the marauding incursions of organized gangs of unscrupulous bandits.

We deprecate the fact that Canadian soil is today being used as a vantage ground for offensive operations against the administration and constitution of the United States of America; that Canadian distillers and dealers in liquor supply intoxicants to rum-runners, while government officials facilitate their activities by the issuance of charters to export companies, and customs officers grant clearance papers to shipments of liquor, knowing that such liquor is intended to be used in defiance of the law of the United States and for the debauching of its citizens.

This intolerable border situation, which outrages all canons of international courtesy, and is fraught with grave domestic danger, can be remedied only by Dominion Legislative action.

ALCOHOL A RACIAL POISON

Furthermore, alcohol is a racial poison which strikes through the individual at posterity, and the more of this degenerative agent that enters the blood of any people the poorer the quality of its present and future citizens will be. As the greatest glory of any nation is the quality of life produced, we should seek to destroy this destroyer of life.

It is not a question only of crimes committed or outrages perpetrated or evil suffered by those who drink liquor. It is tremendously more. It is the effect of alcohol upon the race, and it is therefore a problem for all men who care for their fellowmen.

OPPORTUNITY AND OBLIGATION

To Canadians has come a great opportunity. We may have the high honor of making this loved land of ours an object lesson of the success of enforced prohibitory law, of demonstrating just what prohibition can and will do in a modern democracy, and thus affording a helpful example to the nations of the world.

With opportunity comes obligation. This obligation is peculiarly ours so far as our action or inaction will affect the loved Motherland. Great Britain looks to her overseas Dominions, and nothing would more vitally influence British opinion than the inspiration and example of a prohibition Canada.

POLITICAL ACTION

Under our system of representative government we seek to elect men who personify the ideals and advocate the ideas which we desire should be paramount. It is our duty therefore to raise this issue, and to insist that every candidate of any party, seeking the suffrage of Canadian citizens at this time, shall declare himself so that all will know where he stands regarding Dominion prohibition as herein defined, and what he will do if elected.

We would therefore appeal now to the citizens of Canada and urge that, regardless of party affiliation, they shall work and vote for the nomination of, and election to, the Dominion Parliament, of men who believe in, and will if elected promote the enactment of, a nation-wide law prohibiting the manufacture, importation, exportation, and inter-provincial transportation of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes.

Let there be no cessation of activity, no relaxation of effort, till from ocean to ocean, wherever our flag flies, our land shall be free from the stain and stigma of the legalized liquor traffic in any and every shape and form.

JOHN R. DOUGALL,
Hon. President.

J. H. CARSON,
President.

WILLIAM H. ORR,
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Issued by

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